

What is Claimed is:

1. A cleaning container for chemically cleaning elongated members comprising:

a first body member and a second body member said first body member and second body member respectively forming a first containing space and a second containing space including a first means for reversibly compressively sealing the first body member and the second body member to form a combined containing space for sealably holding a cleaning solution level;

a cap member disposed at a distal end of the first body member said cap member including a second means for reversibly compressively sealing a first opening in communication with the first containing space; and

a second opening centrally disposed in a distal end of the second containing space said second opening including a third means for reversibly compressively sealing around at least one elongated member penetrating through said second opening.

2. The cleaning container of claim 1, wherein, the combined containing space forms a sealably closed hollow cylindrical shape.

3. The cleaning container of claim 1, wherein the first, second and third means for reversibly compressively sealing include at least one of a threading means and a clamping means.

4. The cleaning container of claim 3, wherein the threading means and the clamping means include a means for deformably compressing an O-ring to form a liquid tight seal.

5. The cleaning container of claim 2, wherein an axial dimension of the sealably closed hollow cylindrical shape is greater than a radial dimension.

6. The cleaning container of claim 2, wherein the axial dimension is sufficient to accommodate a length of the at least one elongated member to include at least one thermocouple sleeve.

67,200-605

2000-0949

7. The cleaning container of claim 1, wherein the second opening is a cylindrical opening of sufficient diameter to accommodate at one time a plurality of the at least one elongated member including about 6 to about 10 thermocouple sleeves.

8. The cleaning container of claim 1, wherein the third means for reversibly compressively sealing includes an inner compression sleeve and an outer compression sleeve for deformably compressing an O-ring to seal around the at least one elongated member to include at least one thermocouple sleeve.

9. The cleaning container of claim 1, wherein the at least one elongated member includes at least one thermocouple sleeve including a plurality thermocouple wires extending from the at least one thermocouple sleeve.

10. The cleaning container of claim 1, wherein the cleaning solution level covers a height of the at least one elongated member to include at least one thermocouple sleeve.

67,200-605
2000-0949

11. The cleaning container of claim 1, wherein at least the combined containing space is formed of a chemically resistant material including a resistance to hydrofluoric acid (HF).

12. A method for cleaning thermocouple sleeves comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of thermocouple sleeves including a plurality of trailing thermocouple wires for cleaning;

providing a cleaning container including at least a first sealing means such that at least a portion of each of the plurality of thermocouple sleeves sealably penetrates through the cleaning container to contact a cleaning solution contained in said cleaning container;

sealably penetrating the cleaning container with the plurality of thermocouple sleeves to form a plurality of sealably penetrating portions of the plurality of thermocouple sleeves; and

providing the cleaning solution contained in the cleaning container to clean the plurality of thermocouple sleeves.

67,200-605
2000-0949

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of sealably penetrating includes the at least a first sealing means forming a liquid tight seal around the plurality of trailing thermocouple wires.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the cleaning container includes a second sealing means whereby the cleaning container may be separated into 2 containing parts said second sealing means forming a liquid tight seal at a mating interface of the 2 containing parts.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the 2 containing parts is sized to contain a cleaning solution level for covering the plurality of the sealably penetrating portions.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the plurality of thermocouple sleeves includes a plurality of from about 4 to about 10.

67,200-605
2000-0949

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the cleaning solution includes at least hydrofluoric acid (HF).

18. The method of claim 12, wherein at least a containing portion of the cleaning container includes a corrosion resistant material including a resistance to hydrofluoric acid (HF).

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the corrosion resistant material includes at least one of polyethylene and polypropylene.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the cleaning container includes a sealable cap at an end of the container distal from the at least a first sealing means for adding and removing a cleaning solution.